

# CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors, and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

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COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

March 19, 1982

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## National Science Foundation

The House Committee on Science and Technology met as scheduled on Thursday, March 18, to mark-up the NSF authorization bill (H.R. 5748). The Walgren committee recommended that the Committee adopt an authorization of \$1099.5 million for the Foundation. This includes a budget of \$201.5 million for Biological, Behavioral, and Social Sciences and, as social scientists have been urging, brings the budgets for the social and behavioral sciences back up to their FY 1980 levels. For want of a quorum, the Committee budget mark-up was postponed until next week. The Subcommittee chairman, Congressman Doug Walgren (D-PA), has indicated that he will urge adoption of the Subcommittee's recommendations -- without compromise -- at that time. In addition, several Republicans on the Committee have indicated that they will vote for the Subcommittee's authorization.

Despite the lack of a quorum, the Committee did adopt two changes in the report language of the NSF authorization bill. Congressman George Brown (D-CA) recommended that any change in the Information Sciences budget in BBS be taken from funds already allocated to biology rather than from funds for social and behavioral sciences, and Congressman Bob Shamansky (D-OH) proposed that the Foundation be asked to prepare a report and a plan for Science and Engineering Education by October 15, 1982.

The NSF mark-up will be rescheduled sometime in the week of March 22. For your information, a list of authorizing and appropriating subcommittees for NSF is enclosed as attachment 2.

### National Institute of Education

The Coalition for NIE and Educational Research, of which COSSA is a member, will present testimony on the National Institute of Education budget before Congressman William Natcher's Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education on March 29. The testimony will stress the importance of maintaining stable research funding at NIE and the importance of the research supported by NIE. The Coalition will urge the Subcommittee to increase the administration's budget request of \$53.6 million for FY 1983 to the level of the FY 1983 reconciliation authority or \$55.6 million. Social scientists who live in the districts of members of the Natcher Subcommittee (see attachment #1) should write their Congressman on this issue. COSSA member or affiliate organizations wishing to have testimony on NIE inserted into the Congressional Record should contact the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

### National Endowment for the Humanities

On behalf of the American Historical Association and COSSA, Dr. Samuel Gammon is submitting a statement on the National Endowment for the Humanities budget to the House Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education of the Committee on Education and Labor. This statement is being submitted in connection with the oversight hearings on NEH held by the Subcommittee earlier this month.

Congressman Sidney R. Yates, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, will hold hearings for public witnesses on NEH and several other agencies on April 5 and 6; administration witnesses will testify before the Subcommittee on April 29. Mark up of the NEH budget is not expected to take place until sometime in June. Mr. Yates and his Subcommittee have previously shown great support for the Endowment and are expected to pass an appropriation for NEH above that proposed by the administration.

### National Institute of Mental Health

COSSA has been invited to testify on April 1 before Congressman William H. Natcher's House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies on the appropriation for NIMH. Dr. M. Margaret Clark, president of the American Anthropological Association, and professor of anthropology, epidemiology and international health, and psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco will testify for COSSA.

National Archives and Records Service

An important part of the National Archives from the perspective of social science research is the Machine Readable Archives Division. This Division is responsible for maintaining computerized records of those federal data bases determined to be of permanent value. According to law, no data files from any federal agency can be destroyed until they have been considered and rejected for permanent storage by the Machine Readable Archives Division. At present, the Division contains several hundred data files and 300 series of records from about 50 federal agencies and commissions, most of them dating from 1960 to the present. The Division provides complete descriptions and documentation for the data files.

The work of this Division is currently being curtailed. Because of the reorganization of the Archives, the Machine Readable Archives Division is being organizationally demoted to a branch. In addition, staff reassignments due to reorganization, budget cuts, and rif's (reductions in force or layoffs) have reduced the staff of the Division from 20 to 12. In the short term, this has meant that the Division's response time in supplying copies of data files has increased from two weeks to two months. Moreover, the Division has placed a temporary moratorium on new data requests and accessions. In the longer term, it is unclear what effect the budget and reorganization changes will have on the ability of the Division to meet its responsibilities. It is likely that the documentation of data files will be curtailed or eliminated, reducing the Archives to tape copying and preservation in the future. Despite the current limitations on the Division's activities, if any data files are in imminent danger of being destroyed by federal agencies, the Archives will attempt to receive the material and place it in safe keeping until budget and staff restrictions are eased and accessioning is possible.

Effects of Budget Cuts on Statistical Programs

The Subcommittee on Census and Population of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service held hearings on March 16 on the effects of budget cuts on federal statistical programs. The hearings were arranged for the Subcommittee by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS). Nearly 100 people submitted testimony to the Subcommittee. At the hearing, oral testimony was presented by:

Opening Witnesses

Dr. James T. Bonnen  
Michigan State University

Dr. Stephen E. Fienberg  
Carnegie-Mellon University

Dr. Arthur Flemming  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Private Sector

Dr. John Casson  
American Express

Dr. Markley Roberts  
AFL-CIO

Dr. James F. Smith  
Union Carbide Corporation

Mr. Edward Spar  
Market Statistics

Dr. Donald E. Woolley  
Banker's Trust Company

Research

Dr. Robert B. Hill  
Bureau of Social Science Research

Dr. William P. O'Hare  
Joint Center for Political  
Studies, Inc.

Research

Mr. Fabian Linden  
The Conference Board

Dr. Charles Renfro  
Chase Econometrics

Dr. G. Edward Schuh  
University of Minnesota

Mr. Daniel B. Tunstall  
The Conservation Foundation

State and Local Government

Ms. Susan S. Addiss  
Connecticut Department of  
Health Services

Mr. Frank Gagliardi  
Chicago Fire Department

Dr. Gordon K. Davies  
State of Virginia

Mr. William Hanna  
Mayor of Rockville, Maryland

Dr. D.F. Finn  
National Association of College  
and University and Business  
Officers

A transcript of the hearings will be published with the submitted testimony in early April. For copies, contact the Subcommittee office (202/225-6741) or COPAFS (202/783-5808). Copies of individual testimony are available before then from Katherine Wallman at COPAFS.